

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 15-20 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 8-10 and 18 are independent.

The specification, abstract and claims have been revised to correct minor informalities and to clarify the invention according to U.S. practice. These modifications do not add new matter to the disclosure.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-9 have been allowed over the prior art of record.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, and 10-14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sawabe et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0176695A1). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 1, 5 and 10, Sawabe et al. is directed to an apparatus device for reproducing still pictures. In Sawabe et al., the still picture reproduction information (66 shown in Figure 5) is stored in the cell information area 65, as set forth at paragraph [0097] of Sawabe et al. The still picture reproduction information 66 includes still time period specifying information data 66E. In other words, Sawabe et al. stores the still picture reproduction information 66 including the still picture period specifying information data 66E in

the cell information area 65, which is a navigation area for storing navigation information.

In clear contrast, in Applicants' claimed invention, the recording medium is provided with two separate areas: at least one data area and at least navigation area. The data area stores a stream including still picture(s) and presentation information which defines a presentation period of the still picture. The navigation area stores information associated with the existence of the still picture. That is, in Applicants' claimed invention, the presentation information is stored not in the navigation area, but in the data area. For example, the still picture presentation/duration period information can be stored in a packed header of the data area in the data stream as shown in Figures 3A and 4 of the application. The navigation information, on the other hand, is stored in the cell information area as shown in Figure 3B.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 5 and 10 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) are patentable over Sawabe et al., and reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection based on these reasons are respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 15-17 further define the invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 5 and 10, respectively, and are thus allowable at least for the same reasons that their base claims are allowable as discussed above. Independent claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-20 contain features that are similar to the

features recited in independent claims 1, 5 and 10 and are thus allowable insofar as the arguments for claims 1, 5 and 10 apply to claims 18-20.

Accordingly, it is believed that all of the new claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

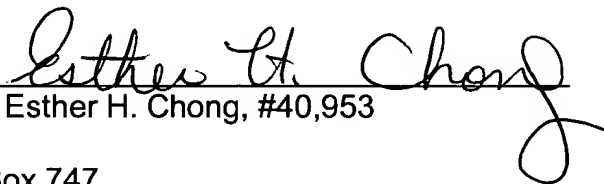
Applicant(s) respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$450.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Esther H. Chong, #40,953

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JAK/EHC:sld:ljr

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure